

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 4 to 20 are all the claims pending in the application, prior to the present Amendment.

In response to a telephone call from the Examiner indicating that claim 1 is patentable over the prior art, applicants have canceled the non-elected claims and have amended the claims to improve their clarity.

With respect to the amendment to claim 1, applicants had intended to delete "Si" from the next to last paragraph, but inadvertently did not do so. Applicants have now deleted "Si" from the next to last paragraph. Further, the Examiner requested that the phrase "ratio of a" be deleted from the next to last paragraph because this paragraph relates to amounts, and not ratios. Applicants have so amended claim 1.

With respect to claims 4 to 8, the Examiner stated that the underlayer that was recited in these claims was not clear as to whether it related to the granular underlayer that was already recited in claim 1 or whether it related to a second underlayer. Applicants have amended these claims to further clarify that they relate to a second underlayer.

Applicants have amended claim 7 in a manner similar to the next to last paragraph of claim 1, and have amended claim 8 in a manner similar to the last paragraph of claim 1 except that claim 8 relates to the second underlayer and not the magnetic recording layer that is recited in the last paragraph of claim 1.

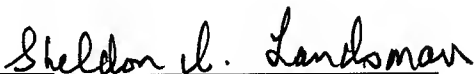
In addition, applicants have added a new claim 21 that is similar to claim 8, except that it relates to the granular underlayer of claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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